

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15

NSC-05 /068 W

----- 064024

R 051619Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0559

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0625

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BB

SUBJ: MORE PRESS COMMENT ON THE AIRLINE LICENSING CONTROVERSY

1. BARBADIAN COLUMNIST NIGEL BARROW WRITING IN THE WIDELY CIRCULATED BRIDGETOWN WEEKLY, THE NATION (APRIL 4 EDITION WHICH APPEARED APRIL 2) EXPRESSED COMMONLY HELD LOCAL DOUBTS THAT ICA IS TRULY A BARBADIAN CONTROLLED CARRIER. AGREEING THAT THE CAB'S QUESTIONING BARBADIAN CONTROL IS UNDERSTANDABLE, THE COLUMNIST SAID "THE BARBADIAN PUBLIC... CAN NO LONGER BE PRESUMED TO ACCEPT ALL SORTS OF ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT QUESTIONING."

2. HE THEN WENT ON TO RAISE THE POINT MOST BOTHERSOME TO BARBADIANS, THE FACT THAT THE ISLAND IS IN NO POSITION TO TAKE ANY ACTION - RETALIATORY OR NOT - HARMING TOURISM. IN COLUMNIST'S WORDS: "AGRICULTURE IS IN SHAMBLES, THE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAMME HAS BEEN LESS THAN A SUCCESS. RETALIATORY ACTION CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS LOSS TO THE TOURISM SECTOR AT A TIME WHEN IT IS NOT SEEING ITS BEST DAYS".

3. ANOTHER ITEM IN THIS WEEK'S NATION NOTES THAT A DIRECTOR OF ICA (MAURICE JONES) IS ALSO A MEMBER OF ATLA AND REPORTS THAT AN UNNAMED AIRLINE OFFICIAL HAS QUESTIONED THE PROPRIETY OF THIS.

SIMMS

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NNN

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